

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The 1997 General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Valencia - Spain - from October 2 to 4 at the invitation of the Spanish Authorities.

The works were honoured by the presence of Mrs. Isabel Tocino, Spanish Minister for the Environment, who officially opened the debates, as well as Rita Barberá, Mayoress of Valencia.

The Assembly gathered 105 delegates who represented 61 Member-Organizations from 27 countries.

The delegates thanked the Spanish Government, the Jucar Hydrographic Confederation, Valencia Generalitat and township for their warm welcome and the perfect organization of their Assembly.

The General Assembly took note **that 102 Organizations of 42 countries have, up to now, expressed to the Permanent Technical Secretariat their interest in becoming either full "Members" or "Observers"**, by signing the declaration of Membership or sending the information sheet. Several other organizations, that meet the criteria, have also shown their interest without any official membership.

The delegates reaffirmed their support to INBO's Charter principles and decided that becoming a member would be, from now on, subjected to the **payment of an annual subscription amounting to US\$ 1,000 for 1998** that aims to cover the expenditure of the Network management and the publication of the "Network Newsletter" as a priority.

An INBO special account will be opened by the Permanent Technical Secretariat to collect the subscriptions. To be paid, the invoices will require a double countersignature from the PTS and the Chairman of the Network or a delegate member of the Liaison Bureau (Treasurer).

The French Water Agencies confirmed their commitment to help financially the Secretariat in 1998, during this phase after which the number of subscriptions should increase.

The Assembly congratulated the Mexican Authorities, Messrs. MESTRE and CHAVEZ, his successor, in particular for their way of carrying out the "Chairmanship" of INBO since the Morelia General Assembly in March 1996.

Upon the proposal of the Spanish Member-Organizations and according to the Charter, the Assembly unanimously nominated Mr. Juan Manuel ARAGONÉS BELTRÁN, the Jucar Hydrographic Confederation Chairman, as **new INBO Chairman** until the next General Assembly in 1998.

It also nominated the following **members of the Liaison Bureau**:

Africa:

- Mr. Amani KOUADIO (Ivory Coast),

America:

- Mr. Hugo MENDEZ ACOSTA, regular member, and Mrs. Maureen BALLESTEROS VARGA, substitute member (Costa Rica),

- Mr. Raimundo GARRIDO (Brazil), regular member, and Mr. Victor ROSADO LUA (Ecuador), substitute member (Brazil).

- Mr. Diego BRAVO (Colombia), regular member, and Mr. Jean-Maurice LATULIPPE (Quebec), substitute member,

- Mr. Ramon GARCIA MAYEN (Mexico), regular member, and Mr. Vinicius BENEVIDES (Brazil) substitute member,

Asia:

- Mr. Rusfandi USMAN (Indonesia),

Western Europe:

- Mr. José María SANTA FE, regular member y Jose Antonio LLANOS BLASCO, substitute member (Spain),

- Mr. Jean-Paul CHIROUZE, regular member, and Alain DUCHEIN, substitute member (France),

Central and Eastern Europe:

- Mr. Andrzej BADOWSKI (Poland) and Mrs. Ane Marie PELIN (Romania).

In addition:

- Mr. Guillermo CHAVEZ ZARATE (Mexico), Mr. Mieczyslaw OSTOJSKI (Poland) are ex-officio members as former Chairmen, as well as Mr. Jean-François DONZIER (IOW) who represents the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the Liaison Bureau.

A representative remains to be nominated for Africa: this nomination as well as those of substitute members for Africa, Asia and Central and Eastern Europe should be made as soon as possible by the organizations concerned.

The Assembly also decided that Mrs. Gentiana SERBU (Romania), Messrs. Eduardo MESTRE Mexico), Gheorghe LASCU (Romania) and Enrique NOAIN (Spain) would be "**Honorary Advisers**" of INBO as former Chairmen or members of the Liaison Bureau, thus acknowledging their efforts to widen the scope of the Network.

The Honorary Advisers will be invited to the General Assemblies, under the same terms as the representatives of each Member-Organization.

During the General Assembly, the Member-Organizations expressed a great interest for the French initiative of organizing, from 19 to 21 March 1998, a **World Conference on Water Management** at Ministerial level, to prepare the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It expressed the wish that INBO be associated to the work of this Conference, as an international organization specialized in the water sector. The Assembly thanked the Organization Committee for its semi-official proposal to organize, on this occasion, an informal workshop about river basin management, directed by INBO.

The Assembly proposed to the Bureau the creation of a limited organization group to determine the contents of this workshop.

The delegates were informed of the initiatives of the "**Global Water Partnership**" and the "**World Water Council**". They also asked the Chairman and the Liaison Bureau to examine how to approach these organizations. In fact, it is important to have the Network expertise as regards Global and Integrated Water Resources Management and organization of River Basins taken into account by all international entities that make possible to think about the problems the water sector raises.

The Assembly was pleased with the unquestionable success of the "**Network Newsletter**" publication and the opening of the **Internet site**: "<http://www.riob.org/>".

It decided to continue with the publication of the newsletter n° 6 in the 4th quarter of 1997 and of two issues in 1998.

It insisted on the advantage for the Member-Organizations of contributing to the "newsletter" by sending their articles to the PTS in time and extending the Web site with the requested information:

- information sheet concerning the "Member-Organizations"
- agenda of events and seminars,
- identification of educational materials and available information,
- inventory of competent consulting firms and service providers,
- new Member-Organizations file capable of mobilizing experts at international level for missions of general interest of INBO as well as a list of experts, (International College).

It recommended to the Member-Organizations to quickly acquire an **electronic mail address** (E.mail) in order to facilitate contacts and the dissemination of the information inside the Network.

It requested PTS to direct "**discussion forums**" on the WEB in 1998, especially on the topics already dealt with by INBO:

"the funding of basin Organizations" (Valencia General Assembly),

"Information necessary for decision-making" (Morelia General Assembly)

"Masterplans for better managing our rivers" (Constanza workshop);

as well as on other important topics:

The "water users' participation"

etc.

The Assembly adopted the recommendations presented at the end of **the technical seminar of October 3 on "the financing of Basin Organizations"** and mandated the Chairman and PTS to ensure that a wide dissemination is made to the Members of the interested International Cooperation Organizations and to the Organization Committee of the new World Water Conference in (Paris).

The delegates examined the progress of the "**AQUADOC-INTER**" project for the dissemination of institutional documentation between Member-Organizations and they saw a demonstration of the experimental model presented by PTS, which is to become operational on Internet before the end of 1997.

They insisted that the Organizations of the Countries quickly nominate **their "National Relay Documentation centre" (NRDC)**, if they have not already done so, and on the importance of participating in the **first Aquadoc-Inter Steering Committee**, which will be held in Limoges, FRANCE, on December 11-12, 1997.

Finally, the delegates approved the programme of the first INBO's "**International training course**" on the topic "**Creation of Basin Organizations**", which will be co-organized by Spain and France in June 1998. A simulation of the provisional programme as well as of the registration conditions will be sent by PTS, when finalized, to the Member-Organizations in order to study the feasibility of the project. In the event of a positive conclusion, PTS will have to ensure that this course will be widely promoted to the Members and to bi and multilateral Cooperation Organizations so that they can envisage sponsorships to make this project successful.

The Assembly thankfully retained the invitation of the Brazilian Authorities to host the next INBO General Assembly in San Salvador de Bahia (Brazil) from 2 to 4 December 1998 as well as the meeting of the Liaison Bureau that will precede this Assembly by several months. It also noted the proposal of Poland for 1999 and Colombia for 2000 that will be examined by the Bureau.

The General Assembly underlined the advantage of strengthening technical seminars and chose the following main topics for the Salvador General Assembly: the participation of users to water management and the funding of the latter.

The General Assembly mandated the Liaison Bureau to organize the preparation of these technical seminars.

They were also pleased with the setting up of a **first Regional Network for Latin America** (RRLA/RIOC), following the Constitutive Assembly in Brasilia (Brazil) on July 9-10, 1997 and the preliminary meeting in Costa Rica of the Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean on May 14-16, 1997.

It encouraged the African Member-Organizations, following the first meeting in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) in November 1996, to set up one or several INBO's Regional Networks, whatever the geographical territory.